

# Bent's Old Fort

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bent's Old Fort  
National Historic Site  
La Junta, Colorado



## Living History Encampment June 6, 2015



The sights, sounds and smells of the 1830s and 1840s Bent's Fort will come to life during the Living History Encampment. Living Historians will perform as trappers, traders, laborers, craftsmen, and topographical engineers. The noise of the cannon will signal the time for trade with the Cheyenne. The gates will open and trade will begin. The noise of the hammer on the anvil will be heard throughout the fort as tools, hardware and utensils are hand forged in the blacksmith shop. The noise of mallets on chisels will come from the alleyway where carpenters will be busy at work building a wheel right bench. The commands of "hah" and "gee" will direct the oxen Clark and Coolidge as they pull a wagon full of trade goods to the Indian Camp. The laborers may try to talk you into wading out

into the adobe pit in your bare feet to help mix the adobe mud for bricks and plaster. The smell of a buffalo tongue cooking over a fire will permeate the air at the trapper's camp where you will find them busy at work scraping hides.

### Daytime Event Hours

Saturday, June 6, 8 am – 5:30 pm

### Periodic Activities

Trappers - tend camp and pack animals – trapper camp and fort rear corral

Fort Traders – traders negotiate trade dealings with visitors in council and conduct trade session in trade room

Teamster – drives oxen pulling wagon to ferry goods and furs

Craftsmen – work in blacksmith shop and carpenter shop repairing tools and equipment and begin work on a wheel right bench. – Carpenter and blacksmith shop

Doctor – uses most scientific means of 1840s treatment to combat ailments and injuries – fort doctor's office

Army – topographical engineers will be busy at work surveying and mapping the area.

Laborers – visitors can take off shoes and help mix adobe to build bricks and plaster for walls – side corral

Games and Past Times – visitors join fort trader for period games – billiards room

Cannon Firings – a presentation will accompany each cannon firing.

Wood carver – Santos made of wood will be carved from cottonwood root.

